

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method and apparatus for classifying querying nodes. A  
5 querying node is classified as a multicast router if it  
transmits a multicast routing protocol query message and the  
node is either unclassified or classified as a multicast  
querier. The node is classified as a multicast querier if it  
10 transmits a multicast group query message and the node is  
unclassified. IGMP multicast group membership reports are  
transmitted to both multicast queriers and multicast routers.  
IP multicast routing protocol data packets, however, are  
transmitted to only multicast routers.

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